

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tissue approximation device comprising two elongate arms, an attachment means to secure the elongate arms to each other, adhesive pads on at least a portion of the elongate arms to anchor the tissue approximation device to the skin, and a locking means to lock the elongate arms in place relative to each other.
- 5 2. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, further having an open and a closed position, and when in the closed position, the adhesive pads are parallel and non-contiguous to each other.
- 10 3. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, where the elongate arms form parallel forceps, the attachment means is a pair of slidable bosses, and the locking means is a ratchet mechanism on the forceps.
- 15 4. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the distance between the elongate arms is adjustable by means of a ratchet mechanism.
- 20 5. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, where the elongate arms form a pair of forceps, the attachment means is a yoke on the forceps, and the locking means is a ratchet mechanism on the forceps.
- 25 6. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the distance between the elongate arms is adjustable by means of a ratchet mechanism.
7. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a socket mechanism that communicates with a ball on the distal end of each of the elongate arms, and the adhesive pad is optionally rotatable around the ball.

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8. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a socket mechanism that communicates with a ball on the distal end of each of the elongate arms, and the adhesive pad is optionally rotatable around the ball.

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9. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a ball that communicates with a socket mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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10. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a ball that communicates with a socket mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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11. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having female receiving mechanism that communicates with a male protrusion on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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12. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having female receiving mechanism that communicates with a male protrusion on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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13. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a male protruding mechanism that communicates with a female receiving mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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14. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a male protruding mechanism that communicates with a female receiving mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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15. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the distal end of each of the elongate arms has a passageway therein such that the adhesive pad communicates with said passageway.

10 16. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the distal end of each of the elongate arms has a passageway therein such that the adhesive pad communicates with said passageway.

15 17. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a passageway therein such that the distal end of each of the elongate arms is within said passageway.

20 18. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a passageway therein such that the distal end of each of the elongate arms is within said passageway.

19. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, where the attachment means and the locking means are the same.

25 20. The tissue approximation device of claim 19, where the adhesive pads are located on at least a portion of each of the elongate arms.

30 21. A method for closing a wound comprising the steps of providing a tissue approximation device comprising two elongate arms, an attachment means to secure the elongate arms to each other, adhesive pads on at least a portion of the elongate arms to anchor the tissue approximation device to

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the skin, and a locking means to lock the elongate arms in place relative to each other; positioning the adhesive pads to skin on opposed sides of a wound; approximating the wound by actuating the tissue approximation device in a direction to move the adhesive pads towards each other in a common plane that is generally parallel to the skin tissue; engaging the locking means to assure that the edges surfaces of the wound do not move; applying a wound closure means to the wound; and removing the adhesive pads from the skin tissue.

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